

I am in fully in favor of eliminating the Morse code testing requirement in order to obtain a General class or Amateur Extra class license for the following reasons.

A. I am a Volunteer Examiner with W5YI and administer amateur radio examinations each month with my VEC and fellow VE's. When we administer the written examinations and Morse code examinations, we have to divide into two groups of examiners so as not to disturb the people taking the written examinations. By splitting the examiners into two groups, we require twice the number of examiners to be present at an examination session.

B. In order to administer the Morse code examination, we must depend on an old computer that the VEC had to supply at his own expense. The old computer is prone to breakdowns and malfunctions from being transported to and from the testing site each month. We had to turn some people away from taking the Morse code examination due to computer problems.

C. Today there are many modes of communications available to amateur radio operators that require no examination in proficiency except for Morse code. To some, Morse code has become a "Right of Passage" in order to advance to a General class or Amateur Extra Class license. I personally feel that the Morse code testing requirement is preventing what would be considered well qualified people from advancing in Amateur Radio. This barrier for advancement must be removed by the elimination of the Morse code testing requirement.

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